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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for tion with to have rejected artisles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

To satisfy fears lest no cause exists for hostility to Spain that can stand as valid to foreign eyes, it may be said that we are preparing to deal with the Cuban situation in order to reestablish within the borders of this hemisphere the domestic peace that is indispensable to our repose and prosperity, and that behind this purpose destruction of the Maine in Havana harbor.

Our reasons for undertaking the task in the manner contemplated are these:

If between the people of any American island or country and their transatlantic rulers we were generally indifferent or impartial, we might choose the simpler way of suppressing Cuban disorder by lending ald to the established Government there, that of Spain. But we are not indifferent, or impartial. We have an instinctive and traditional leaning to the cause of the struggling Cubans. While, as a people inspired by the rational doctrine of JAMES MONROE, we have never entertained a policy involving the expulsion of foreign Governments from this hemisphere, yet we welcome all circumstances which look to such a change. We should see with delight Cuba deliver herself from Spanish domination.

This attitude of greater'sympathy toward all our neighbors, as against more distant peoples, and the guardianship of our domestic interests must go hand in hand, and therefore, Spain being unable to reëstab lish the peace in Cuba which is desirable, we are constrained to tell Spain to go, it need be, at the muzzle of our guns.

In our opinion, the first step in this pro cesa should be the recognition of the Cuban Government. Wandering and vague as that is, a popular movement which to-day defles the utmost resources of the Spanish kingdom, after having carried on three years of warfare heroically, incorruptibly, and irrepressibly, under continuous and undisputed leadership, is fit for the recognition of a friend. If some here hesitate to recognize it because of the refusal of European Governments to recognize it, the answer is that, in such business, the initiative, in this part of the world, is with the United States.

This policy is the one with which those who have been the keenest friends of Cuba are identified, and we believe that it is approved by the majority of Congress. But, with the Executive holding another view, and the Constitutional apportionment of the power to recognize between the Executive and Congress being undetermined, however the weight of authority may favor Congress, the advocates of recognition bear the responsibility of deciding whether the attempt to proceed along those particular lines does not threaten the entire movement with danger. The case against Spain being clear, all roads of action on the part of the United States lead to Cuba's

Naval Bases in War.

Among the expressions of opinion that have been drawn out by the discussion on in England on the subject of naval bases in war, one of the most interesting is that given by the British Admiral. R. VESEY HAMILTON, in a letter to the London Times. He divides bases in naval war into primary and secondary. As examples he instances the blockade and observation of Toulon from 1803 to 1805 by NELSON and of the Spanish coast by Lord St. VINCENT; also the blockade of Brest on the French Atlantic coast. The primary base of the British squadrons then was England. The secondary bases were fleets of storeships from which the squadrons derived all their supplies, frequently taken in at sea. Occasionally some convenient port was used, but the main reliance of the British squadrons was on the supply ships. This form of secondary base was, however, only possible because the enemy's ships had been driven from the seas, and locked up in ports susceptible of being effectually blockaded. Fixed sec ondary bases were not needed.

Kiao Chou by the Germans and the occupation of Port Arthur by the Russians, together with the development of Japan's naval power, Hong Kong was a sufficient primary base for the British naval forces. The squadron, numerically strong, and kept in a high state of efficiency, could always rely upon the mercantile steam marine in the China trade, from which vessels could be taken and fitted up as armed cruisers, to keep the communications of the fleet with Hong Kong open and form the second ary base of supplies. The fleet itself would be concentrated and in close touch with the enemy. But the conditions are all changed now. The possible enemy or enemies have bases of their own, and so situated that, in the event of a combination against England, she must either largely augment her cruising squadron to keep open her maritime communications, or secure more fixed bases. The demand for the cession of Wei Hai Wei was thus indicated. Some other points as auxiliary to Wei Hai Wei in the north and to Hong Kong in the south, will, it is said, be selected and occupied when the necessity

In the China seas, until the seizure of

In the Egyptian campaign of 1882 the British fleet, after destroying the Egyptian coast defence at Alexandria in the north, served as the base of the military operations that were subsequently conducted from the Suez Canal on the east against Cairo. The campaign now being carried on up the Nile is only possible because of the projection of British naval power up the river aided by the railway. In the case both of the campaign of 1882 and the present one, the primary base was and is England. Gibraltar and Malta are the fortified

stations on the line of communication. In our own war against England, from 1812 to 1814, the British fleet, on which 8,000 troops were embarked, formed the base of military operations, and during the summer of 1813 it blockaded and harried our coast line. There was no fixed secondary base. Now England has on this conti- Dr. BRIGGS and Dr. SHIELDS of their mo-

nent two naval bases that may be described sa of the first Importance, Halifax and Requimault, to which equadrons can resort for repair and refit. In addition to Hallfax, on the Atlantic coast Bermuda, Jamaica and St. Lucia are designed to serve as secondary bases for coal and supplies; England remaining as always the originating base. Owing to her possessions on the Pacific being limited to the British Columbia coast line, she has but one naval base on that side of the continent, and it is so situated that in the event of a war between this country and England, it could be isolated at the outset by the military occupation of any intermediate point in Canada between Montreal and Vancouver by an American army. It is to be noted that no other European country, possessing territory on the American continent, has fixed naval bases of any kind in proximity to our shores that could serve to shelter or supply a fleet of war.

With the approaching disappearance of the Spanish domination in Cuba, the only point from which our Southern coasts could be seriously menaced will cease to be dangerous. But what England finds it necessary to do in China, in order to maintain her position as against the new order of things created in that part of the world, we are bound to do in self-defence on our own coasts. The commercial rivalry that is calling for the display of mailed fists by other countries, calls for their preparation by ourselves if we mean to enter seriously into the struggle for a full share of the world market. But mailed flats in the shape of battleships and cruisers, with their auxiliaries of various kinds, are useless without the fixed bases on which they can fall back or from which they can issue, as required. Those fixed bases must in every case be self-contained, fortified, and furnished with docks which our largest ships can enter at any state of the tide. Another thing that our present complications with Spain have demonstrated to be of vital necessity for the proper defence of the country is the early construction of the Nicaragua Canal at whatever cost. On the day on which it is finished the value of our war navy, whatever its numbers, will be doubled.

Is Church Membership a Mere Ques tion of Taste?

The Rev. Dr. SHIELDS, professor in Princeton University, has been confirmed as an Episcopalian by Bishop Potter after having been a Presbyterian from his youth, and he is now in his seventy-fourth year. He was not merely a Presbyterian, but also a Presbyterian minister, who had given formal allegiance to the Westminster Confession of Faith, with its distinctive Cal-

Why, then, has Dr. SHIELDS left the Church of his fathers, into whose ministry he was ordained so long ago as fifty years? This is his answer in his own words "I left the Presbyterian Church on personal grounds in order to protect myself from detraction, as well as to protes against a fanatical form of false temperance which seems now to be terrorizing that communion." That is, he left because he had rendered himself liable to Presbyterian discipline by offending against a rule of its General Assembly requiring ministers to abstain from assisting the liquor traffic. Dr. SHIELDS had signed the application for a license to the Princeton Inn to sell liquors, and accordingly he was called for trial before the New Brunswick Presbytery, to which he belonged.

As to the propriety of such a regulation of the conduct of Presbyterian ministers and of Dr. SHIELDS's views as to the matter, we have nothing to say. He has a right to think as he pleases on that subject; but the pertinent question now is whether a minister who has pledged himself solemnly to be a teacher and defender of a certain Church can consistently turn away from it on "personal grounds" only, without having undergone any change in his conviction as to its tenets. Dr. SHIELDS makes no pretence that he left the Presbyterian Church and went over to the Episcopal Church for any other reason than his personal convenience.

He moves out of one ecclesiastical home and into another as a man might change his house, or simply to gratify his tastes. He likes better the surroundings of his new situation, but he does not move because of any change in his belief. Virtually he was as much of an Episcopalian before he was confirmed by Bishop POTTER as he is now, and he is now no less of a Presbyterian so far as his faith goes than when he remained in its Church organization. He left simply to "protest against a fanatical form of false temperance," not because he was impelled by any religious conviction.

That is, Dr. SHIELDS practically tells all Presbyterians that there is nothing of any essential doctrinal consequence, no vital variation in faith, to prevent their going over to the Episcopal Church, if it happens to suit better their personal comfort and convenience. If they prefer the liturgy or the society of the Episcopal Church, he makes that justification enough. If they chafe under the more ascetic regulations of their present communions and want greater freedom for the gratification of their inclinations, they will only follow the example of this venerable Presbyterian if they move over to the Episcopal Church.

Will recruits thus obtained add real strength to the Episcopal Church? With what feelings will accessions to its ministry or "priesthood" be received by the great party in that Church which rejects Protestantism as unscriptural and altogether without divine authority, if the newcomer are men who declare with Dr. SHIELDS that "the historic Churches of the Reformation, such as the Lutheran, the Reformed, and the Protestant Episcopal, are generally more or less normal portions of the Catholic and Apostolic Church?" This view of the Church conflicts radically with the Anglo-Catholic doctrine that the Episcopal Church is no part of Protestantism, and that "the historic Churches of the Reformation" are no Churches at all, but mere schismatical sects, standing wholly outside of Catholicism, and in wicked re bellion against it.

Moreover, if a Protestant's Church rela tionship can be determined properly by considerations of his mere personal comfort and convenience, without regard to any question of belief, what respectable justification is there for the divisions of Protestantism? If they rest on no vital principle, but express bare differences of taste, are they any more than voluntary clubs? If there is no reason except passing fancy why a Presbyterian should not be an Epis copallan, is there any more religious obligation upon the Episcopalian to prevent his going over to a Presbyterian church if, for instance, he prefers the upholstery of its pews, the looks of its pastor, or the character of its music?

In other words, is not the explanation by

tives in going over to the Episcopul Church simply another indication of the decay of religious conviction! They have changed their ecclesiastical relations, not because of any change in their religious belief, but simply to get more social com-fort. It is as if a Republican should go over to the Democratic party for no other reason than that his personal friends were Democrata and some people objectionable to him were Republicans. Such a man might be an amiable enough person, but he would hardly be accredited with political conviction.

The Army to the Front.

The orders to move the army have come at last, and they cannot be called premature, since it was obvious weeks ago that any land operations in Cuba which proposed to precede the rainy season could not long be delayed. It should be said, however, that for the coast operations at or near Havana, which Gen. MILES contemplates, based on the effective clearing of a landing place by our fleet, cooperating with the forces of Gen. GOMEZ, the obstacles presented by the rainy season will

be less than for operations in the interior. The distribution of forces suggests a cross ing of the Gulf from several points. At New Orleans, eight regiments of infantry are to be massed; at Mobile, seven; at Tampa, seven; and at Key West and Dry Tortugas, one. This accounts for all the infantry except Col. Anderson's regiment, which is far off in Alaska, and needed there, and Col. MOALE'S, stationed in New Mexico and Arizona. Six out of the ten cavalry regiments and all the ten light batteries of the original five artillery regiments go to Chickamauga, whence a run by rail of about 400 miles would place them in Pensacola, or of about twice that distance in Tampa. While Gen. MILES will undoubtedly in person command the offensive operations, Gen. MERRITT and Gen. GRA-HAM will aid in their respective departments of the East and the Gulf, and four out of five of the remaining highest officers are already under orders, Major-Gen. BROOKE to command the forces at Chickamauga, and Brig.-Gens. COPPINGER, SHAFTER, and WADE those respectively at Tampa, New Orleans, and Mobile. All, of course, are veterans of the civil war, familiar with vast armies and grand operations. The final organizations and movements may see some changes in commands.

The confidence with which so large a portion of the regular army is moved away from its customary garrisons is striking, but well founded. The Indian problem in this country is virtually solved, and for a long time not the slightest outbreak has occurred among the red men. It will be observed, however, that, besides the Fourteenth Infantry, necessarily left in Alaska, the Fifteenth remains on the southwestern frontier to guard against possible Apache troubles; and also left behind, at least for the present, are four cavalry regiments: the Fourth in California, Washington, and Idaho, the Fifth in Texas, the Seventh in Arizona, and the Eighth in the Dakotas. Thus both the northern and southern land frontiers have guardians, while the seven artillery regiments scattered along the seaboard are available for any duty.

The mobilization certainly looks well ordered in its first step. Movements on Cuba from several points, timed for conjunction, simplify difficulties of transports and supplies. But doubtless this is only the nucleus of the force that will be called into action. Volunteers will unquestionably be asked for, and it may be hoped that the regular army will also be so increased as to allow the rapid concentration of greater numbers at its various rendezvous on the Gulf coast. The army has been getting ready during the last six weeks, and only waits orders to move anywhere and to take the field at once.

Days of Enrollment.

The enrollment of citizens under mary election reform," by the agency of blanks and the participation of a notary public, began in this town on Saturday and will continue until April 30. It is already announced by some friends of primary reform that they deem it a deplorable circumstance that the time fixed by law for this enrollment begins at a period when the attention of all intelligent citizens is profoundly engrossed in the consideration of matters of national importance. This explanation seems to be made because of fear that there will be a light enrollment, though no such distraction need operate to discourage the enthusiastic enroller, for his notarial fees are paid in advance by others, and he can get a free blank by applying either in person or by letter or postal card at 300 Mulberry street (Manhattan), 19 Smith street (Brooklyn), the Village Hall, Stapleton; the Police Station, Astoria, or the Solingen Building on Mott avenue in the Bronx borough There are some citizens in this commu nity who are extremely partial to "enrollments" either before notaries or commissioners of deeds, they do not care which, and there their political activity ends. To the performance of the obligations of citizenship they contribute little else than enrollment.

The new primary law is applicable to mer of all parties, though it was more especially designed to gain the approval of the men of no party at all. It will be curious to see, after so many partial enrollments how a general round-up enrollment of the 'enrollers" of all parties works between April 1 and April 30,

The "High Rock Gang" No More Public improvements upon the western or Riverside portion of the "uptown district" of Manhattan have been so general that very little attention has been given to at least one such public improvement on the cast side. For many years Fifth avenue to the north of 110th street and south of Mount Morris Park was distinguished as a region of rocks and goats; but it is such no more. As one of the Harlem papers describes the transformation: "The rickety shantles that existed for generations have been swept away, and with them have disappeared the innumerable goats belonging to the inhabitants."

This explanation, however, is more picturesque than accurate. Actually, the "rickety shanties" have not "existed for generations," but have required renewal from time to time, usually at the end of each decade. They have not been swept away, but literally have been blown away by steam power and explosives, and the "innumerable goats," which have disappeared, instead of belonging to the occupants of the houses in the neighborhood, in fact had really no individual ownership, it being a well authenticated principle that Harlem goats belong in common to the shanty population, a peculiarity made to improve his chest capac manifest whenever the ownership of a self in his paretic fashion.

Another feature of domestic life gone with the shantles, the rocks, and the goats; that is the "High Rock gang," a bane to the police and a terror to the inhabitants, although from it graduated those Twelfth ward politicians whose designation as "rocky" gave them a title to political preferment of a minor sort a generation ago.

The relation which the goat bears to the material development and enhanced civilization of the city of New York has always been peculiarly local, and, perhaps, outside of this city, has been imperfectly understood. The New York goat was the rear-guard rolls of retiring rusticity. So long as he remained at peace on the cliffs and crags of the ragged, rocky outline of upper New York, the district in which he had his habitat was not accepted as ready for urban settlement. The goat of Harlem, a species for which zoologists have made no separate subdivision, was a nomad, and his collective owners were squatters also. They did not move from the region, they were moved; the goat did not desert the Harlem rocks, the rocks were blasted from under him.

In the annexed district of New York, beyond the Harlem River line, the goat has found no lodgment; his last stamping ground, his last lodge and rocky fastness, was in upper Fifth avenue, north of 110th street, a region now given over by public Improvement to traffic and to modern and progressive residences. The rocks are gone, and the "High Rock gang" is gone, too. Upper Fifth avenue has been redeemed from the goat, and dedicated to the glory of civilized man.

It is said that Speaker REED is largely responsible for the prominence Mr. Ballay of Texas has attained as the leader of his party in the House.—Indianapolic Journal.

The saying doth not speak the truth. Jon BAILEY was born prominent. He can't help being prominent, much as he would like to.

"Is oratory on the decline?" asks the Providence Journal. Why should it be on the decline? The love of passionate excitement and the pomp of words, the delight in being roused, overcome, and persuaded irresistibly, and in rousing, overcoming, and persuading have not been weakened by the invention of printing. The voice has accents and melodies unknown to print. Besides, a hundred inventions like printing couldn't pluck from the bosoms of men the transport which they feel at the sound of their own voices. If the desire for cratory should come to be confined to professional orators, oratory would flourish still. Men will consent to be bored by the voices of other men, if thereby they can gain the opportunity to air their own.

An Eastern novelist has written to John Brandstrant of Kansas for a description of a prairie fire.—Kansas City Times.

The Eastern novelist has wasted a two-cen stamp, perhaps two two-cent stamps. If he wants an accurate and a thrilling description of prairie fire he should read the proceedings of Populist convention, the Ocala, Omaha, and Chicago platforms, the complete works of James R. Sovereign, and the "Life and Public Services of Jerry Simpson." Then he will have descriptions and prairie fires to burn, and he will be singularly lucky if he can put himself out and keep his readers from being scorched.

It had been feared by some students of Williamsiana that the Hon. George Fred Wil-LIAMS, the Dedham DEMOSTHENES, was growing cold. For a day or two the lava wouldn't coo beans, the crater seemed to have icicles on it, and not an eruption erupted. Fortunately, the appearance deceived. Mr. WILLIAMS has risen to his full feet, and once more nations trem ble. He is red hot and a hundred Arctics and Antarctics couldn't cool him. "The capitalistic forces of the Republican party," says he, "have permitted more than 200,000 innocent men, women, and children to be starved to death." We love to see the immortal WILLIAMS in his Vesuvian mood. He is one of the finest exhibitions of fireworks now on view.

The Hon. EDWARD ATKINSON is the most dis

The most distinguished for what ! A statistician may be distinguished for various for his omnisciolism, his multifariousness of inaccuracy, his multiplicity of invention, and so on. But whatever be Mr. ATKINSON's distinction as a statistician, the general consent of mankind proclaims him to be the worst cook in the world; and even the Hon, HOKE SMITH should be careful about introducing into his monumental midst any of the unanalyzable and forbidding products of the Aladdin stove.

The voice of the poet of the Memphis Commercial Appeal, hymning the Hon. Bos TAYLOR, himself a post:

"The man who can spread so much sunshine and beauty over life's rugged highway should not remain in retirement."

He should not. He will not, if he can help it He has a large assortment of sunshine and beauty which he is anxious to spread, and he is an unequalled spreader.

Wait until the Ancients go to war.-Boston

We don't have to wait. War has raged and roared among the Ancients ever since the martial beauty of Col. HENRY WALKER was preferred to that of Col. Sip Hadges, a war forever memo rable on account of the brilliant assault made by Col. HEDGES upon Col. WALKER'S outworks at Fort Parker. War still rages and roars among the Ancienta. Frequent detonations are heard at Fort Parker, and a strong glass-work has been thrown up. There will be constant fighting so ong as supplies hold out.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Boston Transcript, asserts, " for the encouragement of the small gardener, that nothing better pre pares the soil for the very best results in growth than the intelligent use of that ancient but po tential tool, the spade," and adds that "there is no better exercise for a business man than a moderate stint of spading in the beginning of the day." The ancient and potentia spade is a noble vehicle of exercise, and business men and all others who have time and ground to spare can't do better than play ADAM in the cool of the morning or the evening. But there seems to be no necessity of recommending amateur spaders to take a moderate stint of earth-tickling. Thousands of well-meaning and sincere men, city and suburban, have bought large, fine spades and scarcely slept all night in their eagerness to attack their little piece of soil. They soon found, however, that the ancient and potential implement loves to abrade and blister the amateur hand; that in spots the soil is very crabbed; and that more back than ground is liable to be broken. Such spaders need to be encouraged to persevere, but most of them will not persevere. They will smoke a cigar and regard the spade with an undiminished pride. Much healthful exercise can be taken by looking at a spade. Virtue comes out of it by di-

So many once ambitious haymakers have wisely restricted their task to sitting under a spreading tree, sipping sweetened water, and encouraging by their presence the mowers or the rakers. Exercise is multiform.

Dr. DUDLEY A. SARGENT of the Harvard gymnasium puts forth a solemn warning to scorchers. He asserts that the upright rider has a chest capacity of 240; he who sitteth upon his wheel at an angle of 45 degrees a chest capacity of 260; the drooping and degraded acorche. a chest capacity of 210. But what will the scorcher care for these things ! He doesn't ride to improve his chest capacity, but to enjoy him-

COLUMBIA'S COMMENCEMENT.

The commencement at Columbia this year will be the most elaborate ever neld by the unirereity. John B. Pine, the clerk of the Board of Trustees, is authority for this statement. He is Chairman of the Alumni Committee appointed to arrange the programme. The cele-brations will last from June 5 to June 8. They will all take place on the new site at Morning-side Heights. They will embrace the preaching of a baccalaureate sermon in the large lec-ture room of Schermerhorn Hall on Sunday at 4 o'clock; the class day exercises of '98 of both Columbia and Barnard colleges, on Monday at 3 c'clock; a big reception to all the graduating classes, given by President and Mrs. Low, on Tuesday at 4 o'clock in the library building, and the commencement proper on Wednesday

at 11 o'clock in the gymnasium. This is the general outline of the plan. One of the largest social festivities ever arranged by Columbia will be the dance to be given by the seniors of Barnard and Columbia in the gymnasium on class day. The floor of the exercise hall is just half as large as that of the amphitheatre of Madison Square Garden. It opens directly on the grove of old shade trees at the north of the buildings. This will offer the greatest opportunity for a typical college class day. The exercises will take place in the grove, and then the "prom" will be given in the gymnasium. The scheme means also that Tuesday will be a day of festivity.

The President's reception will be carried out on a very large scale. Wedneaday will, of course, be the day of days. At 10:30 the trustees, faculties, and graduating classes will form in procession in the lower corridor of the library and proceed by way of 116th street, the Boulevard, and the 120th street gate, opposite Teachers' College, to the gymnasium. There the commencement exercises will be held.

In the afternoon there will be a general the seniors of Barnard and Columbia in the

held.

In the afternoon there will be a general alumni reunion, a feature never before adopted at Columbia. From 1 to 20 clock there will be a trustees' lunch served in the President's office and an alumni lunch served in West Hall. From 2 to 3 there will be meetings of the various alumni associations and class reunions.

the various alumni associations and class re-unions.

At 3 o'clock all the alumni will assemble for the dedication of the two memorial gates—the Victor Mapes gate at 119th street and the Bou-levard, and the class of '82 gate at 120th street. They will march in procession to these cere-monies, which are scheduled to take place at half past 3. At 4 o'clock there will be a gen-eral mass meeting of the alumni in the gym-nasium, with addresses by representative Co-lumbia men. Afterward there will be boat races on the Hudson off the Edwin Gould boat-house, a 'varsity ball game, track games by the athletes, a incrosse game, and a general in-spection of the new home of Columbia.

Contraband of War.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: With reference to the question of coal being contraband of war, allow me to cite an instance that came under my own observation during the late civil war. I happened to be in the island of Barbadoes, in the British West Indies, when the Confederate cruiser Florida, commanded by Capt. Maffitt, ran into Bridgetown harbor to coal and to collect information as to the movements of American war and merchant vessels, She came straight from the North after having captured the China tea ship the Jacob Bell, somewhere off this coast.

Permission was given her to take in what coal she required to carry her to the nearest port in her own country. The result was that, although well provided with coal evidently taken in only

well provided with coal evidently taken in only a few days before, she filled un every available space with a fresh supply within the twenty-four hours allowed her by the neutrality laws, and slipped away to see just in time to avoid meeting the Vanderbilt, with Admiral Wilkes on board, that was following close on her heels.

Coal was not at that time contraband of war certainly; and the rules regulating its supply to belligerents were, on that particular occasion, interpreted benevolently.

In the last war between the French and China, rice was declared contraband of war by the former, and no exception that I can call to mind was taken to it by any power. Whether coal and foodstuffs can be made contraband of war depends, I should say, greatly on the circumstances of the case, and the power of the belligerent or neutral wishing to enforce or opposed to a declaration of the kind. In the absence of a definite recognized international tribunal to which all Governments would be pledged to submit, the matter of relative force or expediency will decide the question at a given moment. The fact that the commercial interests of the civilized world are so interwoven that a very little disturbance at one point is apt to produce a general derangement is the best guarantee little disturbance at one point is any to produce a general derangement is the best guarantee that even the strongest nation would not be allowed to infringe the present rules of war, imperfect though they are, beyond a certain NEW YORK, April 16.

Sinking a Warship with Gun Fire. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The mount of pounding that a warship can take from artillery before she goes down may be ment with the old French war vessel Petrel The Petrel for many years was stationed at Constantinople, and the French Government took her home to be shot like a poor old horse, no longer good for anything. She was taken to Toulon and thence aix miles to the south of Cape Sepet, where she was anchored for execution. The peloton consisted of the Brennus, the Carnot, the Jauréguiberry, and the Marceau, four among the most formidable vessels of the French Navy. They stood off about two miles from the "target." After the first few shots the mainmast of the Petrel went by the board. A heavy ground swell interfered somewhat with the firing, notwithstanding the fire optique, which doubtless was resorted to, if not used exclusively. The old hulk was pounded by shot and shell of the most powerful kind, but she held out for nearly an hour, and then lifted her bow completely out of the water and went down stern foremost.

If an old thing like the Petrel can stand such a riddling before going down and out, what can a modern warship stand I RICHMOND, took her home to be shot like a poor old horse,

The Philadelphia Banks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The recent failures of the Chestnut Street National Bank, Chestnut Street Trust Company and People's Bank have caused Philadelphia to be discredited, unjustly, however, as our banks, as a whole, are well managed and entitled to the fullest confidence of the community. But let us look and see who are responsible for these dis

First-The officers who violate the law and the rectors who, when they know of the violation, pe mit it to go on. Second-The Comptroller of the Currency and

tate Banking Commissioner, who, when advised that institutions are illegally managing their business and are unsound, do not enforce the law.

Third—The Clearing House Committee, which has nower to examine and ascertain a bank's true condition when it is evident from its indebtedness and scarcity of money that it is transgressing the laws of

ound banking, but takes no action. The best banks sometimes err in the discount of paper and occasionally make a loss, but those which do a careful, legitimate business are able to meet tively managed, and receive the fullest confidence as shown by the high prices which stocks of our na tional banks command. Their reputation, however, suffers outside of Philadelphia on account of the bad

To avert these failures and almost criminal man early stages, depends upon the law officers suforcing the law and the Clearing House Committee its rule. The remedy is largely at our own doors. A BANK DIRECTOR.

PHILADELPHIA, April 15, 1898.

A Cry of Business. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir! This suspense very trying. I am one of 10,000 business men in this city who are affected by this uncertainty. My business, which promised to flourish this year of fine crops, is virtually at a standstill. I am doing absolutely nothing of portent commercially, and my interests are dormant. I do not wish to be pessimistic about this situation, but unless our Congress acts soon you will witness business reversals by the hundreds. War, though a horrible thing to urge, is preferable to unbearable inactivity.

Now, we rely on the press, and especially on Tun Bux, to urge speedy termination of this straining sus pense. Your editorials have the right tone, and let us hope they will bear fruit. Shine on, Son, Show us light and cheer us up. EDWARD M. SANDERSON, NEW YORK, April 16. A Hopeful Merchant.

The Largest Vessel Ever Pionted on Fresh Water From the Cincinnati Enquirer.

LORAIS, O., April 18 .- Ten thousand visitors from all portions of the State were here to-day to witness the inunching of the mammoth steamer Superior the first vessel built at the new yards of the Cleveland Ship Building Company at this clace. The new steamer was built for the Zenith Transit Company of Duluth, as a cost of \$205,000. Her length is 450 feet, GER, LEE AND W. J. BEYAN,

Prop-Silver Leaders Think They Have Spelle WARRINGTON, April 16.—The echoes of the dinner given by the Democrats last Wednesday night in honor of the 155th birthday of Thomas Jefferson are still heard in Washington. The nce at the dinner of William J. Bryan and Richard Croker, and the fact that Consul-General Lee was in town that night, have caused more or less political discussion among the Demo-

The dinner was a success in every respect

crats.

from a Democratic standpoint, but out of it has grown more or less diversity of opinion. Mr. Croker was in Europe during the memorable campaign of 1896, when Bryan was the candidate of the Demogratic party for President, and Consul-General Les was a pronounced Gold Democrat, giving his support to the ticket headed by Palmer and Buckner. Very many Democrats have been greatly pleased by Consul-General Lee's conduct in Havana, and they have gone so far as to say that he would make s first-rate candidate for the Democrats to take up for President in the national campaign of 1900. Mr. Bryan's frieuds, it has been made known, have heard this talk concerning Gen. Lee with something like indifference, if not contempt. From a political standpoint they do not care anything about Gen. Lee's attitude in the Presidential campaign of 1896. They

Havana. They only refer to his attitude during the Presidential campaign of 1896. They point out that Gen. Lee in that campaign was a Gold Democratic party which formulated the Chicago platform of 1896 for free silver at 18 to 1, the overturning of the Supreme Court of the United States, and an income tax, and the Democratic in the Senate and House of Representatives who remember Gen. Lee's attitude during that campaign declare that under no circumstances will the Democratic party take up Gen. Lee as its candidate in 1900.

The comments about this matter were called out by the fact that in most hotels and public gathering spots of Washington many Lee buttons are worn in the coats of his admirers. The buttons show a picture of Gen. Lee surrounded by the American and Cuban flags, and these buttons have been accepted to mean by the Democrats that Gen. Lee's friends have already started a boom for him as the Domocratic candidate for President in the campaign of 1900. Mr. Bryan had not been in Washington fitteen minutes before he was informed of these buttons, and of the solid admiration felt for Gen. Lee a Consul-General at Havasa, not only by the Repbulicans, but also by the Democrata. Mr. Bryan was not at all disturbed by what he considered the momentary popularity of Gen. Lee a Consul-General at Havasa, not only by the Repbulicans, but also by the Democrata. Gen. Lee's friends have in honor of Thomas Jefferson, recalled instantly that Gen. Lee in the campaign of 1996 was a Gold Democrat, and no matter, they said, about Gen. Lee's services at the dinner given in honor of Thomas Jefferson, recalled instantly that Gen. Lee's services at the dinner given in honor of Thomas Jefferson, recalled instantly that Gen. Lee's services at the dinner given in honor of Thomas Jefferson, recalled instantly that Gen. Lee's services at the dinner given in honor of Thomas Jefferson, recalled instantly that Gen. Lee's services at the dinner given in honor of Thomas Jefferson of 1996 was a Gold Democrat, and no matter, they said, ab

NEWSPAPERS OF SPAIN.

Spain is a country of 18,000,000 population, out there are fewer newspapers published in it, daily, weekly and bimonthly, official, semi-official, secular and scientific, than are published in the single American State of Illinois, which, by the last Federal census, had a population of 3,800,000. And many, if not most, of the newspapers published in Spain are newspapers in name only, for their most distinguished characteristic is that they do not contain any news, being devoted to what are called "matters in general," or such matters in particular as permit of the publication of the paper any day of the week or any hour of the day-it doesn't make much difference which.

Barcelona is now the most populous of the Barcelona is now the most populous of the Spanish citics, exceeding by the recent consus the population of Madrid by several thousands. But the two Barcelona papers which have the largest circulation are El Loro (the Parrot), a Catalan journal devoted to jokes, and El Modo Espanol (the Spanish Fashions). As the Spanish fashions have been precisely the same for several centuries, without the slightest deviation in out or color, fabric or article, the urgent necessity of publishing a newspaper devoted to them is not entirely clear.

them is not entirely clear. them is not entirely clear.

Other Barcelona papers are the Voice of the Neighborhood, the Hudgeon is satirical journal with a gruesome and gory name). Publicity, the organ of the Republicans, with a circulation smaller than that of the New York City Record, and the Family Pictorial. In Madrid, the capand the Family Pictorial. In Madrid, the capital, a newspaper which has been frequently referred to in the cable despatches from Spain during the past few days is La Epoca, a Conservative journal, which makes claim to a circulation of 5,000. It is a four-page paper of blanket style and makes a feature of foreign despatches—when it gets them. El Globo, a journal of Liberal tendencies, has a much larger circulation, though smaller in size than El Liberal or the Imparcial, two other papers well known to European readers generally who are familiar with Spanish journalism.

Imparcial, two other papers well known to European readers generally who are familiar with Spanish journalism.

The processity of Spanisrds to indulge in bombastic titles is reflected somewhat in the press of that country. Cadiz, a tow shaving about the same population as Hartford, Conn., has two daily papers, one known as the Defender of Cadizand the other as Clamor. One of the Mades papers, a paper almost wholly devoted to aliusions to the past and the greatness of Spain, is called the Future Century, and two of the papers of Malaga are known respectively as the News and the Future. A favorite title among the provincial papers of Spain is Publicited (publicity), which can hardly be regarded as a wise selection of title for a country which receives fewer foreign telegraphic despatches in a week than the city of New York gets in a day, and in which a press consorsing exists of so stern a quality as fo divest Spanish papers generally of all claim to independence in matters relating to the Government.

There are aunoximately 1,200 papers in

erally of all claim to independence in matters relating to the Government.

There are, approximately, 1,200 papers in Spain, of which 500 are described as newspapers, 500 as scientific journals (mostly monthly journals), 100 are religious papers, and 300 deal with fashions (Spanish fashions), satire, poetry, music, and art subjects. Nearly one-half the papers of Spain are published in Barcelona or Madrid. In the inter city there is one paper published in French, and in Gibraltar, under English control, there is one published in English. The average circulation of a Spanish newspaper is 1,200 copies.

DR. BRIGGS'S PLANS. Me Applies for Ordination in the Protestan Rpiscopal Church.

Among the list of candidates recommended

yesterday to Bishop Potter for ordination by the Standing Committee of the Diocese of New York appear the names of Prof. Charles A. Briggs and Edward Robinson, the lat ter professor of Biblical theology at the Union Theological Seminary, who has recently been received into the communion of the Epis coppl Church by the Bishop of New York Having fulfilled all of the conditions preliminary thereto, Dr. Briggs entered his name with the authorities of the diocese as a formal applicant for ordination to the order of deacon. The Standing Committee peased favorably upon the application and recommended to the Bishop that the applicant receive the orders of the Church.

Church.

It is the almost invariable rule of canon law that a cancidate shall not be ordained to the desconate within three years after his admission as such candidate. There is, however, a canonical provision which, it all of its requirements be met, permits a candidate to be ordained in the lowest order of the Church without waiting for that long period of probation and preparation to pass by. It is said that Prof. Hriggs will be permitted to take advantage of this provision.

The committee also acted favorably upon the

The committee also acted favorably upon the application of the Rev. M. Snedecker, a former Methodist Episcopal minister recently confirmed into the Episcopal Church, who is to assist Dr. Greer at St. Bartholomew's parish house.

The Sculpture Society's Coming Exhibition. American sculptors are making strenuous efforts to render the forthcoming exhibition of

the National Sculpture Society at 215 West Fifty-seventh street on April 30 the finest in the history of that organization. The society will history of that organization. The society will lay out a garden of rich foliage and flowers, interspersed with works of sculptured art, and show how marble statuary can be protected from the rigors of the American climate during the winter months by covering them with a glass root, which is easily removable in aummer. Sculptors from every prominently in the country are sending exhibits, and about twenty entries have been received for the sun-dial competition, for which valuable prizes will be awarded through the muniflownee of Mr. Thomas Kelly.

PATRER KOLASINSKI'S DRATE Pushing Away of a Curious Figure in the Pe-

lish Colony at Betrott. April 10 is a national heliday among the Poles. It is the anniversary (the sixty-seventh this year) of the battle of Seldlitz, in which in the last Polish revolution, begun at Warsaw in November, 1830, the Polish patriots were successful, defeating the Russian army, The battle of Seidlitz has been celebrated by expatriated Poles throughout the world since as the last triumph of Polish arms. One city of the United States in which usually there is a celebration of the event is Detroit, but it was omitted this year, as the anniversary marked the demise, in the Polish colony there, of its most conspicuous figure, Dominick Kolasinski, more generally known as the King of the Poles. He was the pastor of the chief Polish Catholie church and the last conspicuous representative

of the "warring Pollsh element" in the prices bood in the United States. The death of the King of the Poles was pa-thetic in at least one of the circumstances attending it. Prior to the year 1886 Father Kolasinski was pastor of the Church of St. Albertus in Detroit, and while there he became involved in a conflict with the Bishop of the dioceso. In the difficulties which ensued, the power of the Bishop was shown to be paramount, the pastor was put under the ban of the Church, his control of the parish was wrest the Church, his control of the parish was wrested from him, and he left Detrolt to find a home temporarily in North Dakota. Through the intervention of Mgr. Satolli the King of the Poles returned to Detrolt, was intrusped with the direction of the affairs of the church of which he was pastor at the time of his death, and the original causes of friction were done away with. This is the description which one of the Detroit papers, the News, gives of the last hours of Father Kolasinski's life:

"In the meanwhile Dr. Nicolai had called into consultation Dr. Schulte, and this time the father's parishioners, alarmed about his condition, had become impatient over the failure of the doctor to restore to them their beloved priest. They invaded the sick room, thronged around the bed, and greeted the arrival of the doctor with threatening looks and murmurs of disapproval. They would not let the physician get near the patient. The doctor was told that he had poisoned the priest, that his medicines were poison. The priest's coachman was especially violent in his denunciation.

"We have decided not' to give Dr. Kolasinski sny more of your drops and drugs, he announced, and the crowd supported him, in vain did the physician plead and argue. The crowd insisted that the priest had been poisoned and became more threatening. Dr. Nicolai feared for his safety. He took the medicine bottle.

"If you think this contains poison, I'll convince you of the contents, Finally Dr. Nicolai telephoned for the Bishop. He arrived at 9:30 o'clock and sat down beside the bed.

"Stand back,' he told the crowd. The crowd did not budge an inch. Instead, they kept crowding around the Bishop and the dying priest, pressing the doctor as far away as possible.

"Stand back,' repeated the Bishop. There was no obedience. Now the Bishop arose from his chair and, standing with imposing dignity, commanded for a third time. "Stand bec."

"Stand back," repeated the Bishop. There was no obedience. Now the Bishop arose from his chair and, standing with imposing dignity, commanded for a third time. "Stand back!" The crowd swayed backward, releasing the physician. A grateful glance, a touch of the hand from Kolasinski rewarded the Bishop. For over an hour the Bishop then argued with the crowd, admonishing them not to interfere with the doctor. They withdrew for a minute and then came back and told the Bishop point blank that they had changed their minds. All this time there was constant talking and noise blank that they had changed their minds. All this time there was constant talking and noise in the sick room. The Bishop was embarrassed. Before going he desired to offer his prayer for the natient and give him his blessing. A Polish priest came to his rescue. "Kneel down!" he cried in Polish. And down on their knees they went—men, women, and children—and then the sick man passed away."

MORESTOLEN PICTURES RECOVERED Soupil & Co. Have New Got Back \$10,000 Worth of Their Property Out of \$15,000 Worth.

The theft of \$15,000 worth of paintings from Goupil & Co.'s art store at 170 Fifth avenue is puzzling the police considerably, although the principals in the affair they believe, they have under arrest. These are Frank A. Kellar, the firm's confidential bookkeeper, and James Ford, formerly employed as a salesman in one of Park & Tilford's stores. Kellar lives with his family at 153 West Eighty-first street and Ford at 100 West Sixty-fourth street.

They were arrested Friday night by Central Office detectives Carlin and Milmore and were arraigned yesterday morning in Jefferson Market Court and remanded until Monday Neither of them would make any statement and the police all day yesterday were very mysterious about the affair. The firm is a Parisian one, and the office here is a branch. Kellar has been employed there for over eight years. His faithful work at the start resulted in repeated promotions, and lately he has been the firm's right hand man. As such he was trusted with pass keys to the stock room of the firm, in which were choice collections of paintings. Up to three months ago he was steady and abstemious. At that time the death of a relative in England brought him the sum of £5.000, and this increased fortune led him to plunge heavily into dissipation. Shortly after the change became apparent the firm found that they were being robbed of valuable etchings and water colors. It was also noticed at this time that Kellar began to get into debt, and he is said to have given bogus cheeks. When deed with pass keys to the stock room of the firm,

and water colors. It was also noticed at this time that Kellar began to get into debt, and he is said to have given bogus cheeks. When detectives were put on the case they at once suspected Kellar, but from the start it became avident that several persons were implicated with him. Foral became frightened finally and according to the police made a confession, Just what others are implicated the police refused yesterday to diveige. It was said that there were several women in the case.

Yesterday morning the police recovered still more of the stolen paintings, consisting of etchings and water colors. About \$10.000 worth of the \$15,000 worth of property stolen has been recovered, and the police believe that with the arrest of the other accessories almost all of the stoff can be found. Capt. McClusky said yeaterday that he believed it was a genuine game of the others. The Captain believes Kellar made very little out of it. He said he believed that Ford had done most of the firm work, and had got persons to come and take away the goods which they ostensibly purchased. The confidence of the firm in Kellar had made it easy for while undiscovered. It is these persons that the police are trying to find. Capt. McClusky said he expected to make some arrests very soon.

Some importance has been attached to the wisit to the West Thirtieth street station of a mysterious man and woman, who asked nermission to speak with Keflar. The man said he wast Dr. Osborne of West Eighty-fourth street, and that the woman was Keflar's staterin-law. They were very much excited, and left the station house hurriedly when they found they rould not communicate with the prisoner. No Dr. Osborne could be found in Eighty-fourth street vesterday.

street yesterday.
All inquirers at the office of the firm were in-formed, that nothing would be said about the af-fair, as it was in the hands of the police.

FIRST DAY'S ENROLLMENT LIGHT. Not Over a Bosen Blanks Filed Here and Only

Not over a dozen primary enrollment blanks ame filled in to the headquerters of the Election Bureau in Mulberry street yesterday. They were all from Manhattan. To-morrow the rush is expected to begin. However, the blanks

rush is expected to begin. However, the blanks are expected to come in batches from the political headquarters. Those of yesterday came in the mail.

The office of the Election Bureau in Smith street, Brooklyn, was onen from 8 o'clock to 5. Many persons called who were not provided with the required declaration made before a notary public, and there being no notaries on hand they could not get enrolled. Others broughs defective blank forms. Altogether only fiftyone voters were enrolled, and the Republicans were in a majority of about three to two. The first names entered on the Republican roll were those of former Assemblyman George 1. Weed and David P. Watkins, the secretary of the Executive Committee. No prominent Mugwump, it was said, is included in the fifty-one Executive Committee. No prominent Mug wump, it was said, is included in the fifty-one enrolled.

A Great Renniss of Friends of the Catholic Summer School.

Arrangements have been completed for the grand reunion of the New York friends of the Catholic Summer School of America, to be held to-morrow night at the Grand Central Palace. The reunion will be in three parts: First, a short concert; accoul, a profressive suchre party, in which 3,000 players are expected to compete, and lastly a reception lasting until 1 o'clock in the morning. No tickets will be sold or distributed at the door, and every one desiring to attend must be provided with tickets beforehand. The proceeds of the reunion will be applied toward paying the debt of the New York cottage on the grounds of the Champlain Assembly. The rounion will be in three parts: First, a short

From the Scoul Independent. Who other than the great Republic, symbol of free dom and tolerance, should administer a crushing blow in the name of humanity to the higotry of Spain, the et purely mediæval of all the European mo